

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 02165 250958 Z

15

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 EA-11 NEA-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 STR-08 RSR-01 /213 W
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R 230915 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 957

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMCONSUL DOUALA VIA POUCH

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EFIN, PFOR, CM

SUBJECT: AHIDJO OUTLINES GURC POLICY

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT AHIDJO ON JUNE 20 MADE BROAD STATEMENT TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ARTICULATING GURC FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY. COMMENTED ON CAMBODIA, MIDDLE EAST, SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION, LDC NEEDS, NON- ALIGNMENT, RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND CHINA. STRESSED MEASURES ALREADY UNDERWAY AND PLANNED FOR NEAR FUTURE TO STIMULATE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND GEAR IT MORE THAN HERETOFORE TO BENEFIT OF CAMEROONIANS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN FORMAL " STATE OF UNION" SPEECH TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, JUNE 20, PRESIDENT AHIDJO GAVE EXTENSIVE TOUR D' HORIZON OF

GURC FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY.

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PAGE 02 YAOUND 02165 250958 Z

3. PRESIDENT CITED PEACE AND NON- ALIGNMENT AS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF GURC FOREIGN POLICY. SPOKE OF CAMEROON SUPPORT FOR " UN' S" IRREPLACEABLE ROLE IN SAFEGUARDING INT' L PEACE AND SECURITY " AND WELCOMED DETENTE AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, PEACE EFFORTS IN INDOCHINA, TRANSFORMATION OF EAST- WEST RELATIONS, AND NEW RELATIONSHIPS AMONG GREAT POWERS. ALSO MADE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC POINTS:

A. CAMBODIA-" LAWFUL GOVERNMENT" (READ SIHANOUK REGIME) SHOULD BE RESTORED TO ITS RIGHTS;

B. MIDDLE EAST- SOLUTION TO BE FOUND ONLY IN " RELEVANT" RESOLUTIONS OF UN AND OAU AND REQUIRES WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES;

C. AFRICA- INTEREST OF ALL AFRICAN PEOPLES LIES IN COMPLETE LIBERATION OF CONTINENT AND THEREFORE IN RESOLUTE AND MORE EXTENSIVE BACKING OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN FACE OF COMPLICITY (SOURCE UNNAMED) FROM WHICH RACIST AND COLONIALIST REGIMES BENEFIT;

D. DEVELOPMENT- LDC' S HAVE RIGHT TO GREATER AND MORE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL AID AND REQUEST THAT INT' L ECONOMIC AND MONETARY RELATIONS BE ORGANIZED MORE EQUITABLY, I. E., TO OFFSET WORSENING TERMS OF TRADE BY PROVIDING FAIR, STABLE PRICES FOR LDC PRODUCTS.

4. AHIDJO ELABORATED ON RISKS THAT GREAT- POWER COOPERATION COULD ENTAIL FOR SMALL POWER INTERESTS AND EVER- GREATER NEED, THERE- FORE, FOR LDC SOLIDARITY. THUS, CAMEROON' S SUPPORT FOR OAU WHICH INDISPENSABLE FOR AFRICA " IN SPITE OF ITS FAILINGS." CAMEROON LOOKS TO FOURTH NON- ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER IN ALGIERS TO BOLSTER ROLE IN INT' L LIFE AND CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE AND PROGRESS. BUT NON- ALIGNMENT MUST

BE STRUCTURE FOR CONCERTING ACTION AND NOT " LOSE ITSELF IN UNREALISTIC CONSIDERATIONS THAT PRODUCE DIVISION."

5. RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND CHINA SPECIFICALLY COMMENTED ON AS ILLUSTRATING TWO PATHS CAMEROON FOLLOWING TO GIVE INCREASINGLY TANGIBLE EXPRESSION TO POLICY OF NON- ALIGNMENTS. RE FIRST PATH, PRESIDENT SAID CAMEROON ADAPTING TO MORE APPROPRIATE FORM AGREEMENTS LINKING IT TO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 YAOUND 02165 250958 Z

NEGOTIATIONS TO REVISE AID AND COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH FRANCE TO OPEN SHORTLY. ESSENTIAL FACTOR IS TO PRESERVE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. RE SECOND PATH, CAMEROON DIVERSIFYING RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BY DIALOGUE WITH NEW REGIONS, ESPECIALLY ASIA IN GENERAL AND CHINA IN PARTICULAR. AHIDJO ELOQUENTLY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR RECENTLY ACCORDED CHINESE LOAN, NOT ONLY

BECAUSE OF SUBSTANTIAL SIZE AND GENEROUS TERMS BUT ESPECIALLY SINCE IT REPRESENTED GENUINE SACRIFICE BY PEOPLE WHO THEMSELVES WERE ENGAGED IN GIGANTIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORT; BUT ALSO NOTED AT SAME TIME THAT COOPERATION REQUIRES MUTUAL RESPECT FOR DIFFERENCES AND FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY.

6. BULK OF SPEECH DEALT WITH DOMESTIC POLICY. HERE, AHIDJO STRESSED CAMEROON' S CONTINUED ADHERENCE TO PLANNED LIBERALISM, WHILE PLAYING TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AS " MOST EFFECTIVE MAINSPRING OF DEVELOPMENT." DISCUSSED GURC EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING (A) HAVING EACH MINISTRY DRAW UP ANNUAL PROGRAM OF ACTION AGAINST WHICH PROGRESS CAN BE REGULARLY CHECKED AND (B) A PENDING BILL TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL CIVIC SERVICE DESIGNED TO HALT DRIFT TO TOWNS.

7. AHIDJO ANNOUNCED 1973/74 BUDGET BALANCED AT 74.5 BILLION CFA FRANCS, UP 11.42 PERCENT FROM 1972/73. RECURRING EXPENDITURES WILL ACCOUNT FOR 62 BILLION CFA (UP 10.1 PERCENT) AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS (PLUS INVESTMENT DEBT SERVICING) 12.5

BILLION (UP 33.2 PERCENT). PRESIDENT SPOKE ALSO OF INTENT TO DRAW ADDITIONAL 3.8 BILLION CFA FROM NEW BANK OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES (BEAC) FOR FINANCING INVESTMENTS.

8. SPEECH LAID HEAVY STRESS ON NEED TO STIMULATE NATIONAL ECONOMY. IN ADDITION TO BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MEASURES CITED PARA 7, AHIDJO DISCUSSED THE NEW BEAC AND NEED FOR IT TO TRANSFORM COMMERCIAL BANKING SYSTEM INTO INSTRUMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT. ALSO STATED NATIONAL CREDIT SYSTEM TO BE REVISED, RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND TO BE CREATED, INSURANCE SECTOR RECENTLY RESTRUCTURED (EMBASSY HAS AIRGRAM IN PREPARATION), FISCAL SYSTEM BEING REVAMPED. ALL THESE MEASURES DESIGNED TO OVERCOME SLUGGISHNESS OF ECONOMY AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 YAOUND 02165 250958 Z

DIRECT RESOURCES TO FINANCING CAMEROONIAN ACTIVITIES AND ENTERPRISES.

9. EMBASSY WILL BE REPORTING BY AIRGRAM ON BUDGET AND OTHER MEASURES DISCUSSED IN SPEECH. WE ALSO POUCHING FRENCH AND ENGLISH TEXTS OF SPEECH TO DEPT. (AF/ C).

10. COMMENT: AHIDJO SPEECH WAS EXCELLENT ARTICULATION OF GURC POLICY. DESPITE CERTAIN NEW MEASURES, GENERAL CONTENT FOLLOWS ALONG WELL- ESTABLISHED LINES. LOCAL OBSERVERS AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT OVERALL TONE MORE STRIDENT THAN HERETOFORE, BOTH IN COMMENTS ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS AND IN FORCEFUL DRIVE NOT SIMPLY TO GET ECONOMY MOVING, BUT SPECIFICALLY TO ADAPT IT TO BENEFIT CAMEROONIANS.

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